



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and John F. Pikus, Special-Agent-in-Charge of the Albany Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced that a grand jury sitting in the Northern District of New York returned an indictment today charging GIRIDHAR C. SEKHAR, 41, of Brookline, Massachusetts with one count of Extortion, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) and seven counts of Interstate Transmission of an Extortionate Threat, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(d).

According to the indictment:

From November 17, 2009 through December 1, 2009, SEKHAR a managing partner of the venture capital and private equity company FA Technology Ventures Corporation ("FA Technology"), sent electronic mail messages to the General Counsel for the Office of the New York State Comptroller threatening to reveal an alleged extramarital affair unless the General Counsel recommended that the New York State Comptroller, the sole trustee and manager of the New York State Common Retirement Fund, commit to a proposed \$35 million investment of assets from the New York State Common Retirement Fund in funds managed by FA Technology (the "Commitment"). If the Comptroller had made the Commitment, then FA Technology, either directly or through one of its funds, would have earned management fees and a percentage of profits

generated, but, following the General Counsel's recommendation against the Commitment, it was not approved.

By threatening to disclose the alleged extramarital affair, SEKHAR attempted to obtain, with the General Counsel's consent, the Commitment, the Comptroller's approval of the Commitment, and the General Counsel's recommendation to approve the Commitment. The electronic mail messages traveled from and through Jersey City, New Jersey and Brookline, Massachusetts to Albany, New York.

The case was originated by the Albany County District Attorney's Office with assistance from the Albany office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Elizabeth C. Coombe of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

The Indictment contains mere accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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